

their important contributions throughout the state; to strengthen relationships between nonprofit leaders and public officials; and to encourage individual nonprofit leaders to see themselves as part of the greater nonprofit sector.

In 2001 (the last year data was analyzed) nonprofit expenditures totaled more than \$9 billion in Colorado for the 5,400 largest nonprofits and \$822 billion in the United States for the nearly 267,000 largest nonprofits.

The Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations represents organizations across the state that provide hope for thousands of Coloradans. They educate youth, help the disabled, protect children, provide needed services to adults and promote culture and the arts. From bettering the lives of individuals to improving the overall economy of our entire state, there is almost no aspect of society that nonprofits do not touch. One thing is for sure; our state would not be the incredible place it is today if these crucial organizations did not exist.

Mr. Speaker, nonprofits in Colorado and across the country are an essential piece of the fabric of this country. I am pleased and proud to have this opportunity to salute them today.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I come before you in opposition to the extension of the 9/11 Commission. From the outset, I've been opposed to the creation of this blue ribbon panel. A year and a half ago I voted against the Roemer Amendment which created this panel because I felt the panels work would be duplicative to an already established blue ribbon panel, the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Aside from its duplicative nature I was also concerned over the political intent behind the creation of the blue ribbon commission. I feel that if the panel generates any type of report that focuses on the Bush Administration ignoring key pieces of intelligence it can only be construed as being political. Given the fact that there were tens of thousands of intelligence memos regarding terrorist threats, if this panel criticizes a particular Administration for failing to react to one briefing memo then their report can only be seen as seen as politically driven.

The panel's recent request for an extension to its pre-established May 27th deadline only reinforces my pre-held belief that the panel is going to be used as a political vehicle and not serve its original intent which was to provide recommendations for guarding against future attacks. In my opinion, the panel should have either produced a report within the original time constraints or extend the deadline till after the November elections so that the findings don't get bogged down in election year politics.

The way in which the House passed the extension yesterday on voice vote with no ad-

vance notice is also troubling to me. Had the House conducted a recorded vote on the extension, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, I missed rollcall votes 32, 33. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 32; and "aye" on rollcall 33. I request that my comments be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate section.

TRIBUTE TO KURT DOUGLAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented and dedicated athletics coach from Rangely, Colorado who is retiring after many years of service. Kurt Douglas uses his creative guidance to inspire people to achieve their best and make the most of their talents and abilities. His enthusiasm spirals through the community as he passes his love for sports on to his student-athletes. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Kurt's tremendous service to the Rangely community.

Kurt Douglas has been coaching for over twenty-seven years. He started his coaching career in Crowley County in 1975, where he served as an assistant baseball coach for six years and assisted with the boy's basketball team for two more years before becoming head coach. After Crowley County, Kurt went on to coach at Rocky Ford, working with the Meloneer's baseball team for 13 seasons, which included two trips to the state finals. He also coached the girl's basketball program and assisted the football team for a combined 12 years.

Kurt has led three basketball teams to the state tournament and participated in four all-state games, two in basketball and two in baseball. His favorite aspect of coaching has been the opportunity to guide his three daughters through their own basketball careers. In the midst of all this, Kurt has found the time to work as a full time teacher, while serving as the activities director for the high school.

Mr. Speaker, Kurt Douglas is a truly dedicated individual who uses his talents to enrich the lives of the students in his Rangely community. Kurt has demonstrated a love for sports that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to many athletic programs and the student-athletes who participate. He has given up countless hours of his free time in order to give kids a chance to pursue their dreams, and I commend him for his service to our youth. Thanks for all your hard work Kurt, and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an organization that has dedicated its efforts to the education and prevention of tobacco use among our Nation's young people. Founded on March 4, 1999, as a result of the historic Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), the American Legacy Foundation celebrates its 5th anniversary this week.

Over the past 5 years, the American Legacy Foundation has made great strides in improving health for all Americans by creating an environment which allows young people to reject tobacco products and assists others to quit.

The American Legacy Council is best known for their award-winning truth youth counter market campaign. Truth advertisements provide a blunt and frank approach to the negatives of smoking and tobacco usage. These advertisements are credited as one of the reasons for the recent declines in youth tobacco usage. Additionally, the foundation's programs extend well beyond targeting youth. Through their cessation programs, the Circle of Friends creates circles of support around women who wish to quit, the Great Start Program helps to provide counseling for pregnant women regarding the risks of tobacco usage during pregnancy, and the Priority Populations Program focuses on those groups disproportionately harmed by tobacco use.

In addition to celebrating the American Legacy's Foundation wonderful achievements, I wish to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the very real threat to the financial existence of programs such as truth, and the existence of the Foundation itself. This year the American Legacy Foundation has received its last payment from the MSA. Because of the dramatic reduction in resources, all of the successes that the Foundation has achieved are in jeopardy. Already, the Foundation is cutting programs. It is imperative that members of Congress join together to not only congratulate the American Legacy Foundation on their great success over the past 5 years, but also join together to ensure that the American Legacy Foundation will be able to continue on their path for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE YOSHIDA HONDA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into our Nation's RECORD the tribute which was given by Art Honda at the memorial service for his sister-in-law, Jeanne Yoshida Honda, beloved wife of Congressman MIKE HONDA, on February 21, 2004.

"Jeanne would really be blown away with all of you being here (especially in this weather). She would also be a little embarrassed but pleased all the same. Thank you for being